

# Utilities Systems Management Branch

## Fats, Oil & Grease (FOG) Control Program

### Seattle Public Utilities

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# What is FOG?

**Fat, oil and grease washed down the drain**



**Source: food preparation  
& cleanup**

# Density of Grease in SPU mainlines

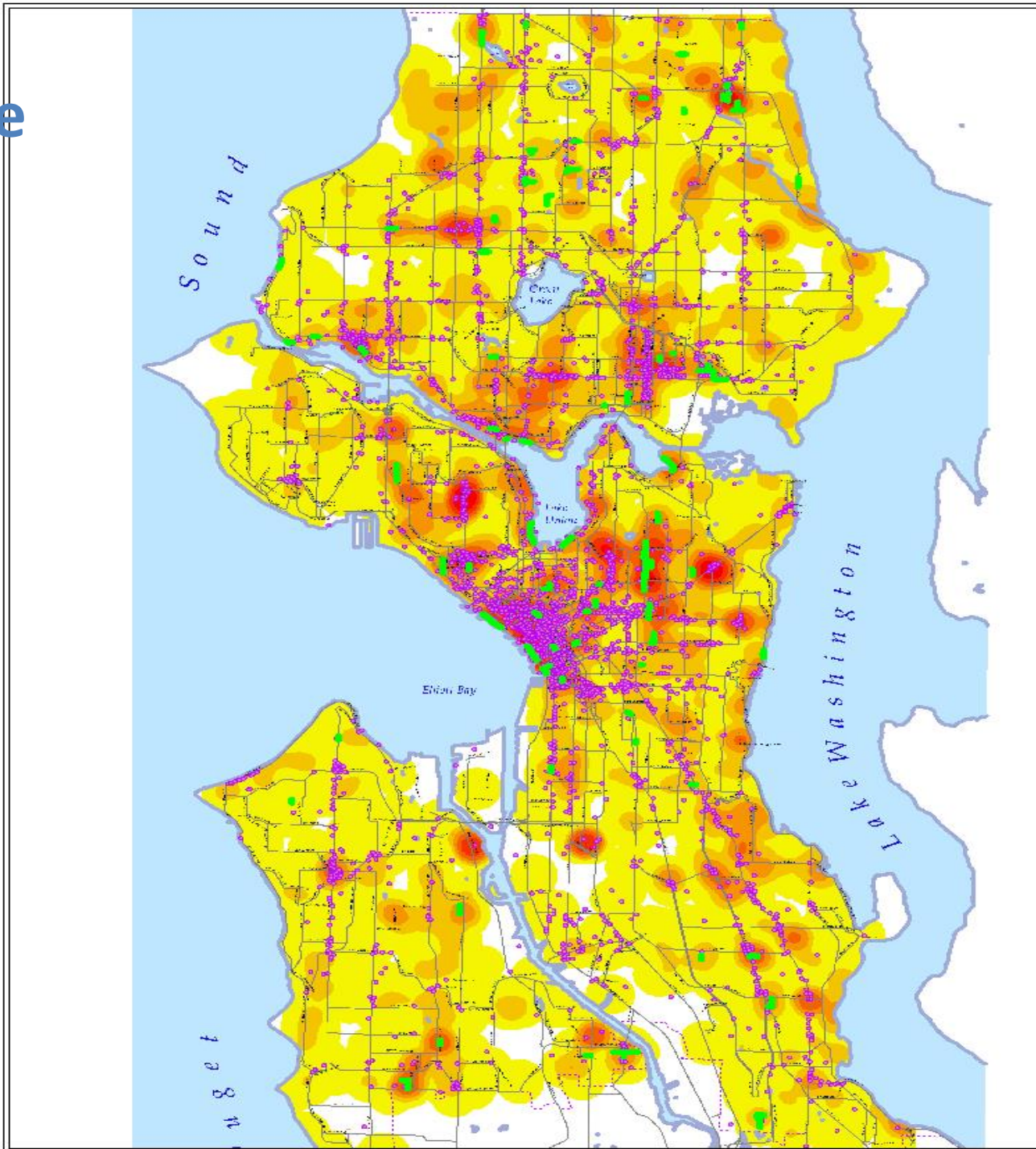
- least dense
- most dense
- restaurants

Hot spots =

backups



heavy grease



# Why is FOG a problem?

**FOG hardens in sewer pipes**



**rancid fat**

+

**CA**

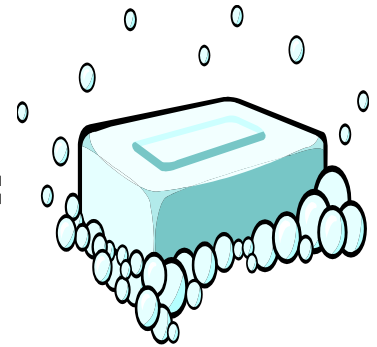
**calcium**

+



**cleaners**

=



**soap**

# Why is FOG a problem?

Public health risk from backups

Costs money to clean

Violates our Sewer Permit





# FOG Program: cleaning vs. inspection & education

- Prevent repeat sewer back-ups due to FOG
- Prevent **future** back-ups from FOG by slowing grease build-up

FOG inspection & education program reduces amount of time needed to clean public lines by capturing FOG close to the source—before it gets to public lines



# SPU's FOG Program

## Focus on hot spot areas

1. Food service establishments (FSEs)
2. Residential customers

Cool it, can it, trash it

## Tools

- Posters in kitchen - best management practices (several languages)
- Magnets, food scrapers, can lids

# SPU's FOG program

## Tools cont'd

- Side Sewer Code (businesses)
  - Requires FOG interception upon order of the director = grease trap
  - Business must maintain





# Waste Grease

Now

Yellow grease  
(fryer)

Brown grease  
(trap grease)

Sewer grease

Valuable for biodiesel

High energy value if  
captured before it's soap  
**emerging market**

Waste--mixed with  
sewage, hard soap-like

Future

Yellow grease  
(fryer)

Capture more  
Brown grease

Minimize  
Sewer grease

# Future vision

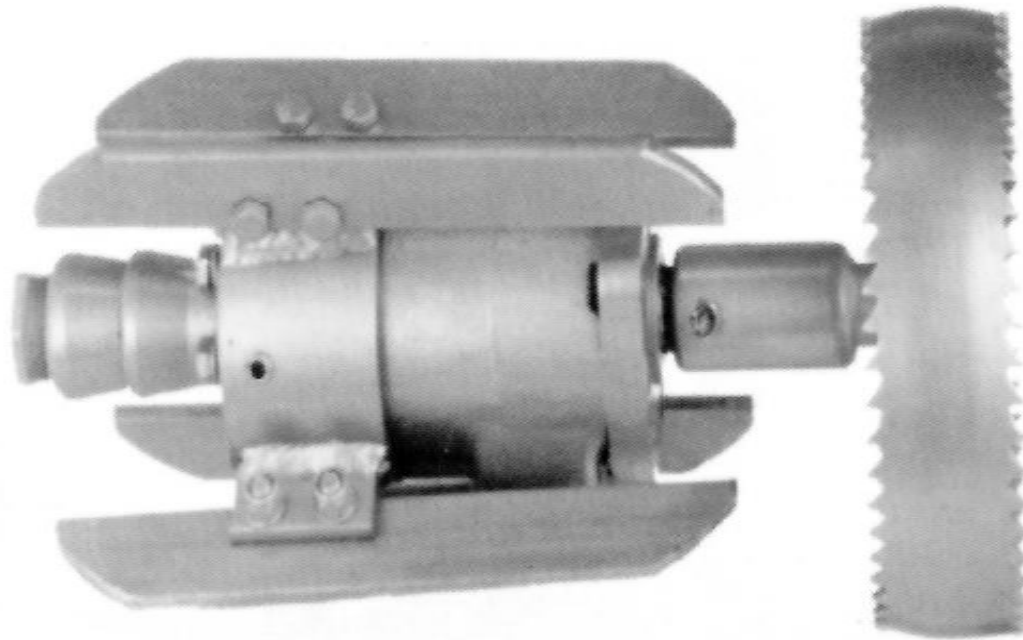
*What success will look like...*



# Summary & Questions

- FOG is from food
- Managing FOG keeps sewage moving to the treatment plant, protects health & environment
- FOG management is everyone's job
- Managing FOG at the source is the best overall solution



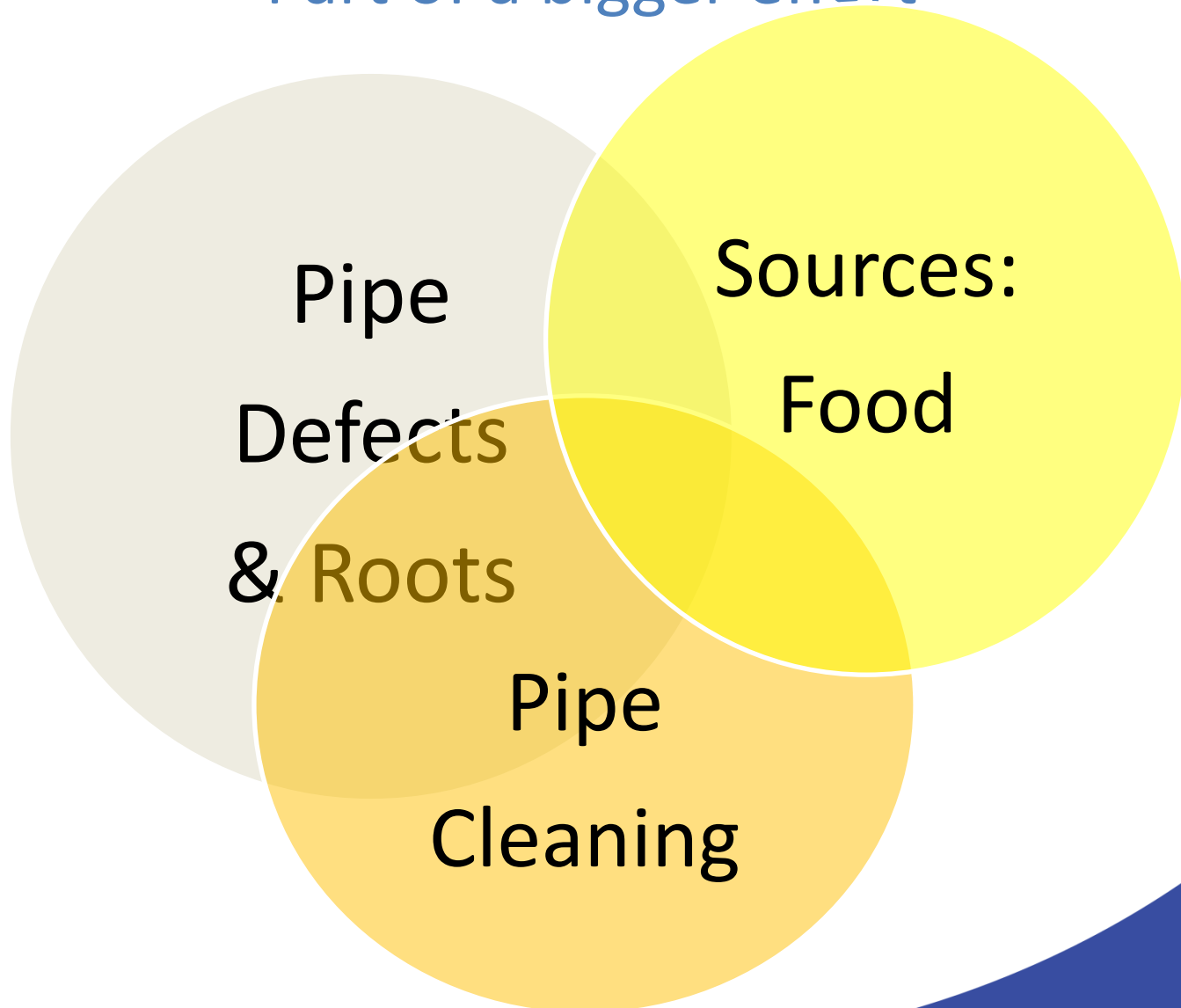


### **SKID STYLE ROOT AND GREASE CUTTER**

Designed to clean sewers from 6" to 20" in diameter. The skid assembly positions the root cutter in the middle of the sewer line creating quick and efficient sewer cleaning.

# FOG Control

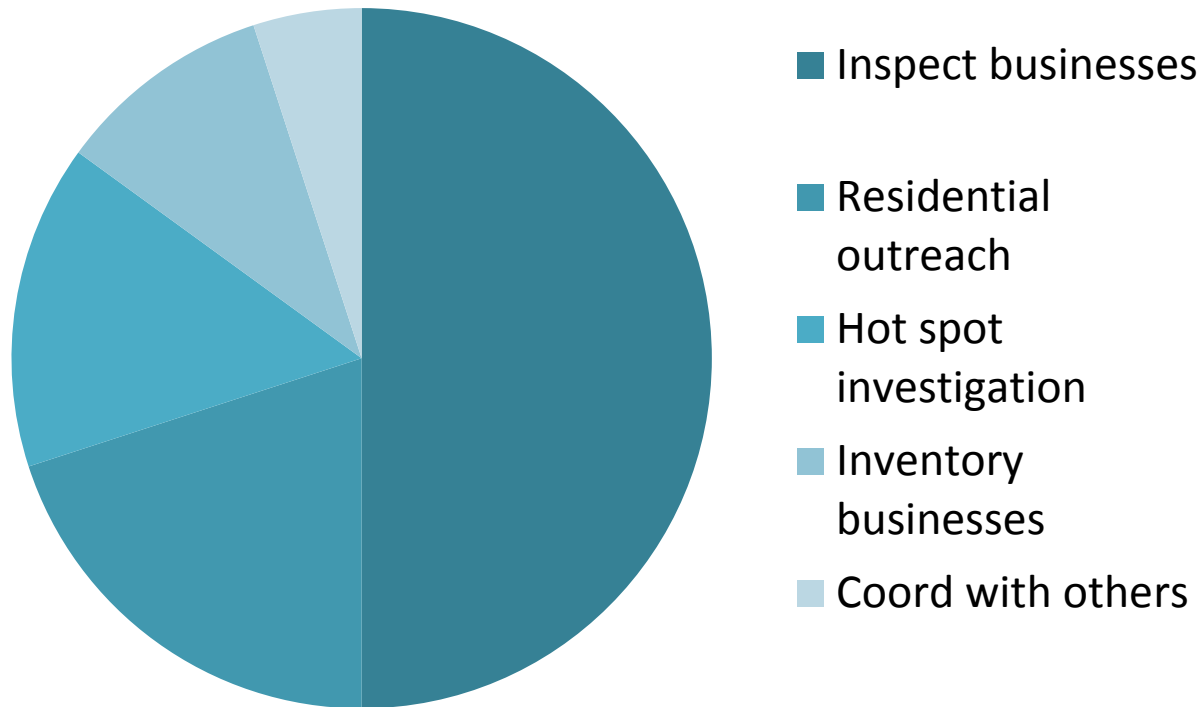
Part of a bigger effort





# SPU's FOG Program

## Inspector time allocation



# FOG Future Vision

- Considering Code change - All FSEs install interceptors
- The more brown grease captured, the less sewer grease SPU needs to remove

